

## Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

### Biosolids Program

PA 29 of 1997 states in Sec 3132 (5): *Ten percent of the fund shall be allocated to the department of agriculture to provide persons involved in or affected by land application of sewage sludge or sewage sludge derivatives with education and technical assistance relating to land application of sewage sludge or sewage sludge derivatives.*

#### MDARD activities:

**Stakeholders Meetings:** Participate in bi-monthly Michigan Water Environment Association (MWEA) Biosolids Committee meetings. MDARD staff updates the Committee on activities and projects relating to the Biosolids Program.

**Biosolids Coordinating Committee:** Participate in quarterly meeting/conference call hosted by MDEQ State Biosolids Coordinator.

**State Biosolids Publication Discussion:** MDARD staff participates in a bi-monthly conference call with Biosolids Program representatives from Indiana and Ohio to discuss biosolids program education, promotion, and media articles. The focus of this group is to share ideas and information to collectively further biosolids programs.

**Annual Conference:** MDARD staff work with the MWEA 501c3 status to conduct an annual two-day conference focusing mainly for sewage sludge generators, contractors, consultants, engineers, and government. MDARD staff chair the conference planning committee which meets monthly, and coordinates the securing of a conference facility, topics, speakers, meals, guest rooms, vendor and sponsor participation, tours and tour transportation, printing of conference brochures, and all other associated tasks. This event has an annual attendance of about 80 participants with 15 vendors and sponsors.

**Michigan State University Agricultural Expo:** An Annual event where the agricultural community can observe the latest equipment, technology, and services to the agriculture. In 2012, approximately 18,000 attended this 3 day event. MDARD staff coordinates the Michigan Biosolids Team's (MDEQ, MWEA, MSU, and MDARD) participation in this event. Tasks include assisting MDEQ with securing of the two outdoor lots, coordinate with MSU on the tillage, biosolids application, preparation, planting, maintenance, and presentation of the demonstration plot, rental of a tent, coordinate with MWEA members and MDEQ Biosolids Program staff to obtain display materials, samples, popcorn popping supplies, educational information, worker scheduling, set-up and tear down. After the expo, MDARD staff coordinates with MSU staff on the maintenance of plot up to and including harvesting for yield data.

**Michigan Township Association (MTA) Annual Conference:** MDARD staff coordinates with MDEQ Biosolids Program staff to display at this annual event to information to and answer questions from Michigan Township Officials who are on the front line of citizen inquiries.

**MWEA/AWWA Joint Expo:** MDARD staff coordinates with MDEQ Biosolids Program staff to display at this annual two day event. This event's audience is individuals working in the water and wastewater industries, along with superintendents, consultants, and engineers. Tasks include securing booth space, bringing in display materials and popcorn popping supplies, and coordinating work schedules. This event is attended by over 2,000 water and wastewater professionals.

**Earth Day:** MDARD staff coordinates with MDEQ Biosolids Staff to display at this one day event. The audience is school aged children with grades ranging from 2 to 7. Tasks include securing the meeting room in the Atrium of Constitution Hall, securing samples, popcorn popper and supplies, display materials, audio visual equipment, set-up and tear down. In 2012, this display was visited by over 1,200 students.

**Biosolids Information Folders:** with folders provided by MDEQ, MDARD staff implements the securing, printing, and filling of the folders with biosolids information including an MSU Extension Bulletin, a USEPA pamphlet, demonstration plot results, wastewater treatment, and Biosolids Staff Contact Information. These folders are used at all events where the MBT has a display, to Conservation District Offices, for Biosolids Generators upon request, among others.

**Quarterly Newsletter:** This newsletter, titled "*Amendments*", provides information primarily to MBT members and Land Applying Biosolids Generators. MDARD staff writes articles, researches for news and information on the biosolids industry in Michigan as well as other Great Lakes States and Ontario, obtains and records dates for future meetings and events, and the distribution of the newsletter via email and regular mail.

**Other:** Biosolids 101 e-mail to Michigan Association of Conservation District (MACD) list server, Presentations to various audiences, an Ornamental Corn Plot fundraiser,